IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Spangenberg, et al.

Application No.: 10/553,507

Filed: 10/14/2005 Group Art Unit:

Title: Manipulation of organic acid Examiner:

biosynthesis and secretion

Attorney Docket No.: FREE.P-006

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the Examination of the above-referenced application and in partial response to the Notification of Missing Requirements mailed June 9, 2006, please amend this application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendment to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendment to the Drawings begin on page 7 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets of drawings:

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following the Remarks/ Arguments section of this paper.